29th January 1929]

(b) whether they propose to grant the required amount and provide for it in the coming budget?

A.—(a) No. The scheme is not yet ready and some details connected with it are under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Utilization of the railway cess collected by district boards.

*1130 Q.—Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of railway cess accumulated by each of the district boards which have no railways of their own;

(b) whether any proposals have been called for by the Government from such boards for the utilization of these amounts; and

(c) whether the boards will be permitted to lay any remunerative and well paying feeder or branch railway lines in their jurisdiction?

A.—(a) A statement[a] is appended.

(b) Yes; district boards were asked in 1927 whether they wished to formulate by means of committees or otherwise proposals for the utilization of railway cess accumulations on the construction of new roads and bridges. Almost all the district boards have stated that either proposals for such utilization have been already sanctioned or that they have already formed or are willing to form committees to formulate proposals.

(c) The normal procedure laid down by the Railway Board in the matter of construction of branch and feeder railway lines is the construction by the Government of India or, at its cost by a company, of a branch line which a district board desires to have constructed and is prepared to guarantee.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"In view of the table furnished, may I ask whether the Government have any proposal before them that some portion of the railway cess accumulation in the Kurnool district should be diverted to the making of the Srisailam Road and if the Government are negotiating on that matter with the district board?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"I am afraid I cannot reply to this question at present because I must get information before I can give any definite reply."

The hon. the President:—"In such a case, the proper reply would be 'Notice'."

Municipal Councils

Nomination of Mr. P. Venugopala Pillai to the Chidambaram Municipal Council.

*1131-A Q.—Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for nominating the out-going Chairman, Mr. P. Venugopala Pillai, as a member of the Chidambaram Municipal Council;

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[a] Printed as Appendix IX on page 303 infra.